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Approved For Release 2002/07/12 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000600020114-9

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CLASSIFICATION SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 12 May 52

SUBJECT Border Guards and Fortifications

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

NO. OF ENCLS.
(SEE BELOW)

DATE ACQUIRED 8

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFO [REDACTED]

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1. An organization known as PS (Pohraniční Stráž - Border Guards) was responsible for the security of Czech border areas. The main function of the PS was to guard the borders from persons trying to escape from Czechoslovakia. I hear in Zilina that the best-controlled section of the Czechoslovak border was that bordering the American Zone of Germany between Cheb and Podmokly. Conversations with various persons led me to believe that large units of the Czech Army were located along this entire section. Rumor had it that the border between Cheb and Podmokly was wired and that the wires were connected to alarm signals located at intervals between 200 - 300 m apart. Lookout posts were said to be located in this area and, presumably, were equipped with searchlights and machine gun emplacements.

2. [REDACTED] anti-tank obstacles were being built in the Cheb - Podmokly border area. All fortifications built during the Bohemian Republic were being modernized (I have no information as to how they were being modernized), and anti-aircraft installations were being camouflaged by covering them with earth. I know nothing about the extent, size, or depth of anti-tank installations, or the other types of military fortifications.

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3. I believe that the sections bordering the Soviet Zone of Germany and Austria were not as heavily guarded as the border along the American Zone.
[redacted]

4. I do not know the strength and the composition of the PS nor the strength of the regular army troops located along the border. I can give no additional information on border installations.

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